



# **DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, October 9, 2008

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Gebhard Meeting Room

630 Garden Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**1) CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 a.m.**

**2) ROLL CALL**

**DPC MEMBERS**

Marshall Rose  
Bill Medel  
Randy Rowse  
Kate Schwab  
Tom Williams  
Jim Hammock  
Bill Collyer

**Attendance**

Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present  
Present

**CITY STAFF PRESENT :**

Browning Allen, Transportation Manager  
Victor Garza, Parking / TMP Superintendent  
Brandon Beaudette, Administrative Assistant  
Rebecca Jimenez, Parking Supervisor  
Robert Peirson, Finance Director  
Rob Dayton, Principal Transportation Planner  
John Ledbetter, Principal Planner

**LIAISONS PRESENT:**

Grant House, City Council

**Others Present**

**3) PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2008.**

M. Rose would like the minutes to reflect that a Subcommittee was formed in addition to a Special Downtown Parking Committee Meeting in regards the Plan Santa Barbara

It was moved by J. Hammock and seconded by Kate Schwab to approve the minutes. The motion was carried 6 yeas/0 nays.

**5) PRESENTATION ON THE BACKGROUND OF MEASURE G**

R. Peirson gave a presentation on the background of Measure G. The presentation is meant as public information for the measure. It is not meant to be an endorsement for or against the measure.

The measure would be an ordinance reducing the telecommunication utility users tax from 6% to 5.75%, to fund police, fire, 9-1-1, parks/recreation, gang prevention and after school programs for at-risk youth, senior services, street repairs, public transit, and other general fund services; exempting low-income seniors, prohibiting a tax rate increase without voter approval; requires equal treatment of all taxpayers regardless of technology, annual audits, public review of expenditures and local control of all revenue.

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The City has a current Utility Users Tax and is a general 6% tax levied on utility services including water, electric, natural gas, refuse, cable television and telephone. This has been in place since 1970. The new measure would be an update on the UUT by accommodating newer technology. It would also eliminate the cost of a potential legal challenge, and secure vital local funding for services.

R. Rowse asked if there is retroactive exposure if litigation passes against the current UUT. R. Peirson responded that there is no class action exposure but individual taxpayers could file a claim for a refund from the city.

T. Williams stated that the Measure stipulates that it goes into the General Fund. He doesn't see anywhere that it is allocated for things like Police, Fire, etc. R. Peirson replied while T. Williams; statement is true that 50% of every General Fund dollar goes to public safety. He would also like to point out that this is not new money. These funds are existing funds.

M. Rose understands the telephone tax but why cable? R. Peirson stated that companies are now bundling their services together. So want to ensure these bundles are taxable.

### 6) **PLAN SANTA BARBARA – GENERAL PLAN FRAMEWORK: DRAFT POLICY PREFERENCE REPORTS**

M. Rose stated that as a result of this agenda item from the previous Downtown Parking Committee meeting a subcommittee was formed to address Section C of the Draft Policy Preference Report. The subcommittee met and an appropriate recommendation was agreed upon to present to the full committee. A special DPC meeting was held although there was not a quorum. He would like to present the recommendation changes at the current meeting. J. Ledbetter stated that he likes the recommended changes and is more than willing to present the recommended policy statements.

M. Rose stated that other items in Section C of the Draft Policy Preference Report are more applicable to the city. The Downtown Parking Committee's comments should be related to the Central Business District (CBD). He would like the parking unbundling concept to be included in its own subsection. R. Dayton suggested changing the wording to be more positive. G. House also stated that he is please with the language and would like to continue to see language that doesn't just maintain but works to improve. He would also like to see recommendations on implementation.

R. Rowse asked if the language breaks down the CBD as a unique entity. He wants to make sure it is clear that it is a unique district. J. Ledbetter replied that he was directed to put in policies to consider districts. Not only downtown but for upper State Street and funk zones as well. He believes that it is made clear that it is its own district.

B. Medel inquired about Section E and new projects. He would like to see language that new projects would not impact parking in the CBD. R. Dayton would like to assure that the Planning Department gets that and Section E speaks to that.

The agreed upon recommendations reads as follows:

CIRCULATION Section C5 (pg.27):

**Appropriate Parking.** Establish requirements for on- and off-street parking in the Central Business District (CBD) appropriate to the parking users as following:

- a. Maximize availability of customer parking in the CBD;

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- b. Limit/discourage employee use of public parking in the CBD;
- c. Maximize employee commuting options to the CBD;
- d. Manage and price public parking in the CBD so as not to put businesses in the CBD at a competitive disadvantage related to other south coast shopping options;
- e. Changes to residential parking requirements and permit programs in the CBD should maintain and/or increase availability of on-and off-street parking for customers.

It was moved by R. Rowse and seconded by B. Medel to recommend these changes to the Planning Commission and the City Council. The motion was carried 6 yeas/0 nays.

### **7) DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE TERMS**

M. Rose stated that the application process is open and closes November 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are three seats open. At least two of the seats must come from a city address. He stressed that the committee continue to help recruit for these positions.

### **8) MONTHLY REPORT ON GRANADA GARAGE PERFORMANCE**

B. Beaudette presented the Monthly Granada Garage Performance Report. He noted that occupancy was up in the evening from the month before due to more performances in the evening at the Granada Theater.

M. Rose recommended that this item be changed to a quarterly report. Staff agreed and will now present it quarterly.

### **9) PRESENTATION OF SEPTEMBER BI-ANNUAL OCCUPANCY REPORT**

B. Beaudette presented the September Bi-Annual Occupancy Report. It is a parking lot by parking lot breakdown of the average occupancies of the lots during a two week period in September.

There are three important trends to take note of from this report. Occupancy is down slightly during the week Monday through Thursday. Occupancy is slightly up during the daytime hours on Sunday, particularly in the lots below Ortega Street. Lastly, occupancy is dramatically up during the evening hours on Sundays. This information reinforces the Bi-Annual report from May and demonstrated further that Sundays are not performing like a regular weekday.

J. Hammock asked why the month of September is used. B. Beaudette replied that it is used because there are no big events that take place in that month so it is a good month to use as a baseline measure.

### **10) OPERATIONS UPDATE**

V. Garza gave an update on the homeless situation surrounding the downtown parking lots. There has been a problem with the homeless becoming more belligerent with staff. A porta-potty has been removed from Lot 11 to due to increased aggression by homeless in that lot.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.